

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A biologically pure culture of Lactic acid bacterium belonging to thea genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing thean intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in presence of up to about 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (currently amended): The lactic acid bacterium strainLactobacillus according to claim 1 which is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The lactic acid bacterium strainLactobacillus according to claim 3, which is a Lactobacillus paracasei strain.

Claim 5 (original): The Lactobacillus paracasei strain according to claim 4, which is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for preparing an ingestable support material comprising the step of using a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to thea genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing thean intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to claim 6, wherein the lactic acid bacterium Lactobacillus strain is contained in the ingestable support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method according to claim 6 wherein the ingestable support material is a food composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formulae.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for the treatment of a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising the step of administering to a patient suffering a disorder associated with diarrhoea a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to thea genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing thean intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to thea genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing thean intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The composition according to claim 10, which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacterial suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding and liquid tubefeeding.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the Lactobacilluslactic acid bacterium strain is capable to grow in the presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 10 wherein the Lactobacilluslactic acid bacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.

Claim 14 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the Lactobacilluslactic acid bacterium strain is a Lactobacillus paracasei strain.

Claim 15 (currently amended): The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 13 wherein the Lactobacillus paracasei strain is Lactobacillus paracasei CNCM I-2116.

Claim 16 (currently amended): The method of claim 9 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain comprises an ingestable support material.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method according to claim 9 wherein the Lactobacilluslactic acid bacterium strain is contained in the support material in an amount from about 10^5 cfu / g to about 10^{12} cfu / g support material.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for preventing a disorder associated with diarrhoea comprising the steps of administering a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to thea genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and essentially colonizing thean intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses to a patient at risk of diarrhoea.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method according to claim 18 wherein the lactic acid bacterium strain is part of a composition selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, and infant formula.

Claim 20 (currently amended): A food comprising a biologically pure culture of lactic acid bacterium strain belonging to thea genus Lactobacillus capable of adhering to and

essentially colonizing the intestinal mucosa and capable of preventing infection of intestinal epithelial cells by rotaviruses

Claim 21 (previously presented): The food of claim 20 which is selected from the group consisting of milk, yogurt, curd, cheese, fermented milks, milk based fermented products, ice-creams, fermented cereal based products, milk based powders, infant formulae, tablets, liquid bacteria suspensions, dried oral supplement, liquid oral supplement, dry tube feeding and liquid tubefeeding.

Claim 22 (currently amended): The food of claim 20 wherein the Laetobacilluslactic acid bacterium strain is capable of growing in the presence of up to 0.4% bile salts.

Claim 23 (currently amended): The food of claim 20 wherein the Laetobacilluslactic acid bacterium strain is selected from the group consisting of Lactobacillus rhamnosus and Lactobacillus paracasei.